



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

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Office of the
Commissioner

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**Public Hearing – March 2, 2017
Insurance and Real Estate Committee**

**Testimony Submitted by Commissioner James Redeker
Department of Transportation**

HB 7126 – AAC Transportation Network Companies

The Department of Transportation (CTDOT) appreciates the opportunity to comment on **HB 7126 – An Act Concerning Transportation Network Companies**. CTDOT has some concerns with the raised bill as written.

Section 3(c)(2) requires that TNC drivers comply with all applicable laws relating to accommodation of service animals, however it is unclear which federal or state regulations, including Federal Transit Administration regulations, may apply.

CTDOT would also request that any reference to adopting regulations be changed from require adoption to permitting adoption, to only adopt or amend regulations as necessary. Further, any references to adopting regulations should clarify to which commissioner it applies.

Section 7 requires CTDOT to conduct a study regarding accessibility for persons with physical disabilities. CTDOT requests that this study focus on legislative, as well as regulatory, changes for the Departments of Transportation, Motor Vehicles, and Insurance, rather than on reimbursements or incentives for increasing the number of available wheelchair-accessible vehicles. The taxi industry is already converting their own vehicles as part of their public convenience and necessity, and further expansion of accessible vehicles should be included in their certificates. CTDOT would also request that the preliminary report on the study, due February 1, 2018 in the raised bill, but moved to July 1, 2018.

Finally, section 9 of the raised bill allows for a new option of criminal background check to applicants for a certificate of public convenience and necessity, allowing the option of a third party criminal background check in place of a fingerprint check. However, if the intent is to provide this new option to drivers, who may not necessarily be the certificate holders for their vehicles, CGS 14-44 is most appropriate statute to amend.

We look forward to working with you to address these concerns and further craft this legislation.

For further information or questions, please contact Pam Sucato (pamela.sucato@ct.gov) or CJ Strand (carl.strand@ct.gov) at the Department of Transportation, (860) 594-3013.